

Complete List of All Claims in the Application

We claim:

1. (Currently amended) A fully-consumable pet chew comprising a formed, three-dimensional body of chewable material, said body having an outer surface and at least one recess extending generally perpendicularly from said outer surface, said recess having walls and a machined edge at said outer surface, said recess defining a receptacle within said body, a filling comprising an edible substance fixedly positioned in said receptacle.
2. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said machined edge at said outer surface is formed by machining operations selected from the group consisting of drilling, punching, cutting and stamping.
3. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein the walls of said recess are scored during machining operations.
4. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said receptacle is a cylindrical bore.
5. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said receptacle is a three dimensional cavity of a desired size and configuration.
6. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said receptacle extends only partially through said body.
7. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said chewable material is selected from the group consisting of natural rawhide, ground and recombined rawhide, starch, casein, denatured and partially hydrolyzed collagen, thermoplastic material, non-toxic plastic, and mixtures thereof.
8. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said filling is selected from the group consisting of rawhide, poultry, meat, pork, jerky, a meat by-product mixture, cereal, rice,

vegetable, fruit, cheese, pet food, peanut butter, and mixtures thereof and binders therefor.

9. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said filling is formed from whole pieces of an edible substance.

10. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said filling is formed from discrete particles of an edible substance.

11. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said filling comprises a processed mass.

12. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said filling is substantially level with the outer surface of said body.

13. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said filling extends outwardly from said receptacle.

14. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said chewable material and said filling is flavored with a flavoring agent.

15. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said chewable material and said filling is colored with a colorant.

16. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said chewable material and said filling is scented.

17. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said chewable material and said filling further contains at least one additional ingredient selected from the group comprising nutrients, dental additives, pharmaceutical compounds and mixtures thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 17 wherein said nutrients are selected from the group consisting of vitamins, minerals, herbs, anti-oxidants, and nutritional supplements.

19. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 17 wherein said pharmaceutical compounds are selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory agents, antibiotics, anti-parasitic agents, and animal-coat enhancing compounds.

20. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said receptacle and said filling

are sized and configured so that said filling is retained in said receptacle by friction fit.

21. (Previously presented) The pet chew of claim 1 wherein said filling is pre-formed and pressed into said receptacle.

22. (Currently amended) A method of making a fully-consumable pet chew, comprising the steps of:

- a. forming an edible, chewable material into a three dimensional body;
- b. removing a portion of said body to form at least one recess having walls and defining a receptacle in said body;
- c. forming an edible filling; and
- d. fixedly positioning said filling in said receptacle.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein step b. includes the step of scoring the walls of said recess during machining operations.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said receptacle is a cylindrical bore.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said receptacle is a three dimensional cavity of a desired size and configuration.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said receptacle extends only partially through said body.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said chewable material is selected from the group consisting of natural rawhide, ground and recombined rawhide, starch, casein, denatured and partially hydrolyzed collagen, thermoplastic material, non-toxic plastic, and mixtures thereof.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling is selected from the group consisting of rawhide, poultry, meat, pork, jerky, a meat by-product mixture, cereal, rice, vegetable, fruit, cheese, pet food, peanut butter, and mixtures thereof and binders therefor.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling is formed from

whole pieces of an edible substance.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling is formed from discrete particles of an edible substance.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling comprises a processed mass.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein at least one of said chewable material and said filling is flavored with a flavoring agent.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein at least one of said chewable material and said filling is colored with a colorant.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein at least one of said chewable material and said filling is scented.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein at least one of said chewable material and said filling further contains at least one additional ingredient selected from the group comprising nutrients, dental additives, pharmaceutical compounds and mixtures thereof.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein said nutrients are selected from the group consisting of vitamins, minerals, herbs, anti-oxidants, and nutritional supplements.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein said pharmaceutical compounds are selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory agents, antibiotics, anti-parasitic agents, and animal-coat enhancing compounds.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling is pre-formed and pressed into said receptacle.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling is fixedly positioned in said receptacle by means of friction fit.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling is fixedly positioned in said receptacle by means of edible glue.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling is fixedly

positioned in said receptacle by means of a removable covering.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling is fixedly positioned in said receptacle by sealing said filling in said receptacle by means of a thermosetting edible compound.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said filling comprises slices of meat and steps c. and d. comprise twisting said slices of meat and forcing said twisted slices into said receptacle so that said twisted slices conform to the size and configuration of said receptacle and are retained in position therein.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 including, after step d., an additional step of shaping the top surface of the filling to the desired configuration.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 including, after step d., an additional step of drying and sterilizing said pet chew by exposing said filled pet chew to a suitable temperature for a sufficient time to effect drying and sterilizing.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 including, after said drying and sterilizing step, the step of wrapping said filled pet chew to prevent oxidation.